

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A frame element (20, 30; 130; 220) for a monopolar stack, comprising:

a plurality of recesses (31; 131) for receiving ribs (12; 212) of plate elements (10; 110; 201) arranged to form a stack, and/or

a plurality of perforations (21; 221) for passing therethrough ribs (12; 212) of plate elements (10; 110; 210) which are arranged to form a stack.

2. (currently amended) A frame element (20; 220) according to claim 1, comprising perforations (21; 221) for passing therethrough ribs (12; 212) of the plate elements (10; 210) arranged to form a stack, wherein the frame element (20; 220) is provided at one side with a structure (23; 225) which is electrically conductive in portions and which supports a monopolar wiring of the plate elements (10; 210) arranged to form the stack.

3. (currently amended) A frame element (20; 220) according to claim 2, wherein the structure (25; 225) which is electrically conductive in portions comprises a regular pattern.

4. (currently amended) A frame element (20; 220) according to claim 2 or 3, comprising:

a printed circuit board on which the structure (25; 225) is formed that is electrically conductive in portions.

5. (currently amended) A frame element (220) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, comprising:

mounting means (229) for two end plates (250) which complete the stack of plate elements (210) at both sides.

6. (currently amended) A frame element (30; 130) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, comprising at least one channel (32a, 32b; 132a, 132b) for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

7. (currently amended) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements (210) in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements (210);

laterally attaching frame elements (220) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations (221) of the frame elements (220) receive ribs (212) of the plate elements (210);

offsetting the pretension.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein prior to the offsetting of the pretension the ribs (212) of the plate elements (210) are soldered with the frame elements (220).

9. (new) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising:

a printed circuit board on which the structure is formed that is electrically conductive in portions.

10. (new) A frame element according to claim 2, comprising:

mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.

11. (new) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising:

mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.

12. (new) A frame element according to claim 4, comprising:

mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.

13. (new) A frame element according to claim 2, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

14. (new) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

15. (new) A frame element according to claim 4, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

16. (new) A frame element according to claim 5, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.

17. (new) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 2 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;

offsetting the pretension.

18. (new) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 3 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;

offsetting the pretension.

19. (new) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 4 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;

offsetting the pretension.

20. (new) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 5 on the stack so that the recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;

offsetting the pretension.